



# PUBLIC USE FILES

2015 AMERICAN HOUSING SURVEY

## ***Make the Most of the 2015 AHS Public Use Files Getting Started With the Public Use File: 2015 and Beyond***

***Is there a user's guide to help me better understand, analyze, and interpret the 2015 AHS PUF data?*** Yes. U.S. Census Bureau (Census) and Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) developed a special guide called ***Getting Started With the Public Use File: 2015 and Beyond***. The file can be accessed in the [technical documentation section on the American Housing Survey](#) website.

***Why should I use the 'Getting Started' Guide?*** The purpose of this document is to introduce American Housing Survey (AHS) users to the 2015 AHS public use file (PUF) microdata. Survey users who have experience with prior-year PUFs (that is, 2011, 2013, and so on) may notice similarities between the 2015 PUF and prior-year PUFs. However, there are important differences, which are described in detail in this guide.

***What sort of differences?*** Changes to the 2015 AHS include: Integration of the 15 largest metropolitan areas into the National sample PUF; fewer tables in the relational PUF structure; fewer weights; name changes to many variables; removal of non-interviews from the PUF; a new interactive codebook ([AHS Codebook Interactive Tool](#)) and reorganization of codebook variables into topics and subtopics.

***What does the 'Getting Started' guide contain?*** The guide contains:

- Current Release Notes (as of V1.0)
- An Overview of the document
- A Brief Review of the 2015 Sample Design
- 2015 PUF Availability
- 2015 PUF Relational File Structure
- 2015 PUF Flat File Structure
- 2015 PUF Codebook Interactive Tool
- 2015 PUF and 2015 Internal Use File
- Type of Respondents Included in the 2015 PUF
- Variable Types and Names in the 2015 PUF
- Using the 2015 PUF to Replicate Estimates in the AHS Summary Tables
- Coding of "Not Applicable" and "Not Reported" in the 2015 PUF
- Geographic Indicators in the 2015 PUF; Core and Rotating Topical Modules
- Weights in the 2015 PUF
- Edits and Imputations
- Topcoding and Other Disclosure Avoidance Techniques
- Value Labels Package

***How can I get a copy of the guide?*** The ***Getting Started With the Public Use File: 2015 and Beyond*** guide can be downloaded for free directly from the [technical documentation section on the American Housing Survey](#) website.

***Where can I learn more about the American Housing Survey?*** To learn more, visit the [American Housing Survey](#) webpage.

